



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

LEWIS CASS BUILDING

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2013

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
Colleen Allen, Chairperson	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Rhonda Fossitt	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Diane Heinzelman	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District
Elizabeth Knisely	Michigan Department of Community Health
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Jane Turner	Michigan State University
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Richard Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University
Scott Gilman	Network 180
MDCH STAFF PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Morgan Aue	MDCH, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Yasmina Bouraoui	MDCH, Developmental Disabilities Council
Lisa Grost	MDCH, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lori Irish	MDCH, Division of Services to Children and Families
Min Lee	MDCH, Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
COUNCIL GUESTS	ORGANIZATION
Audra Parson	Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Christine Rans	Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultant

ROLL CALL

A Roll Call of the Council members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.



CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Colleen Allen at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Colleen Allen called for a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Jane Turner made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mary Chaliman. The **MOTION** carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary – Elizabeth Knisely

The Board Certification Behavior Analyst licensure legislation was heard by the Health Policy Committee on December 5, 2013. It is expected to go back to the Health Policy Committee for a vote in January. There seems to be no opposition. The bill did have several amendments from the original version. One amendment discussed was “...an individual shall not act as an applied behavior analysis direct contact technician unless registered with the department...” Lisa Grost reported Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan asked for this language.

STANDING REPORTS

Autism Alliance of Michigan – Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen reported that Anthony Ianni, an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder and an Autism Council member, has been on the Relentless Tour advocating Autism Spectrum Disorder awareness and acceptance of autism in and outside of Michigan. The Relentless Tour has partnered with the Department of Civil Rights to collaborate on media and scheduling.

Grand Valley State University – Amy Matthews

Amy Matthews reported that Statewide Autism Resource and Training (START) Project is committed to continue with statewide training. START met with regional collaborative networks to help in the dissemination of trainings to every intermediate school district in the state. The START project includes peer-to-peer support for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Data from peer-to-peer support from the START Project is showing a decrease in behavioral referrals, increase in grades and attendance and a change in student climate.

Michigan Department of Human Services – Mary Chaliman

Mary Chaliman report DHS is collaborating with the Pathways to Potential initiative to coordinate services. They are also have a \$100,000 in the 2014 budget to work with Macomb Oakland Regional Center on an project to promote a climate of gentleness.

Michigan State University - Jane Turner

Jane Turner reported Stacie Rulison and herself provided a presentation to the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Board of Directors on Autism Spectrum Disorder and on ideas to have a more inclusive and therapeutic environment in their facility.



Michigan Department of Education - Joanne Winkelman

Joanne Winkelman reported that the Department of Education has held discussions for rule changes including the definition of autism.

Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services - Rhonda Fossitt

Rhonda Fossitt reported on the effect of the Affordable Care Act on insurance companies, DIFS, and areas of Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), insurance companies have had to remove dollar limits on services provided, and DIFS has seen an increase in calls to the Consumer's Service area. A handout was provided of the Michigan insurance carriers and the new applied behavior analysis service coverage for 2014 due to ACA. Additionally, DIFS has committed efforts to educate the community on ACA by presenting on the subject at public libraries.

Rhonda Fossitt and Audra Parson reported the use of the Autism Fund to the Council. They informed the insurance claims have utilized \$500,000 of the Autism Fund to date. They expect the claims to be submitted at an increasing pace.

Rhonda Fossitt provided the following link as a resource to the ACA.

https://www.michigan.gov/difs/0,5269,7-303-12902_35510-263899--,00.html

Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District- Diane Heinzelman

Diane Heinzelman reported the Michigan Association of Special Education Administrators created a guidance document to provide suggested considerations when collaborating with parents and providers who are accessing the autism benefit.

Michigan Department of Community Health – Elizabeth Knisely

Elizabeth Knisely reported there are 450 children approved to receive the Medicaid/MiChild autism benefit and resources continue to be added for the providers to www.michigan.gov/autism. The autism coordinator map will be updated in January after the restructuring of the PIHPs. The MDCH is continuing to have monthly webinars for the Medicaid/MiChild providers regarding the policy implementation and professional development, including recent Train the Trainer on the Behavioral Strategies Training developed for families with Autism Alliance of Michigan and Project ImPACT by Michigan State University. Elizabeth Knisely report on November 13, 2013 at the Waiver conference provided five sessions related to autism: Degree Options in Michigan (BCaBA/BCBA/BCBA-D); Increasing Communication in Children with ASD; Treatment of Severe Challenging Behavior and Outcomes; Project ImPACT; Sleep and Toileting. The MDCH is partnering with Sunfield to sponsor four ADOS Booster Sessions in 2014 for Medicaid/MiChild Providers. She also reported U of M is partnering with 11 CMHs on a Pilot Behavior Management Case Study Program and utilizing medical staff for medication consultations.



Autism Alliance of Michigan – Stacie Rulison

Stacie Rulison reported on the collaboration of the Autism Alliance of Michigan and YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to provide trainings to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Identification Early Intervention Subcommittee - Amy Matthews and Jane Turner

Jane Turner reported the Screening and Evaluation action team is developing flow diagrams to illustrate the entry points of autism services and tools for families to utilize when interacting with insurance carriers.

Amy Matthews reported the Intervention action team is working on service coordination and documents to assist with increased agency collaboration. A presentation by Bryan Davey has been scheduled for February 6, 2014 and they are recruiting a variety of professions providing services to youth with ASD. The event is being coordinated and sponsored by Autism Alliance of Michigan, Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, Michigan Department of Education / START.

Adult Service Subcommittee - Stacie Rulison

Stacie Rulison reported the Adult Services Transition action team is looking for best practice models in Michigan, including Kent ISD. They are considering recognition awards for agencies with good practices and outcomes. The action team is also surveying universities to find out the current accommodations for students with ASD to learn the needs for students pursuing higher education.

Stacie Rulison reported the Adult Services Housing action has identified best practices and is researching successful housing options. She reported herself and Colleen Allen will be meeting with this action team to discuss their role of an action team.

Education Subcommittee – Joanne Winkelman

Joanne Winkelman reported the Education subcommittee is working on tools for professionals to use to improve communication and service coordination. The subcommittee will begin to meet monthly in 2014.

Insurance Ad Hoc Committee - Colleen Allen

No update.

Crisis Management Ad-Hoc Committee – Lisa Grost

Lisa Grost updated the Council on the Crisis Management Ad-Hoc Committee on behalf of Scott Gilman. She informed the members the Crisis Management Ad-Hoc Committee will target teens and young adults to look at recommendations, guidelines, and best practices. The Committee is focusing on treatment, transition of services after residential treatment and residential treatment options.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Employment First Forum Update – Elizabeth Knisely

Elizabeth Knisely updated the Council on the Employment First meeting held November 20, 2013. She reported the MDCH hosted a discussion with three national experts and over 25 vested advocates in employment for people with disabilities. The advocates have some differing opinion but very similar in their overall goals. Senator Warren is interested in pursuing state wide Employment First policy for people with disabilities.

BCBA Legislation Licensure

This item was covered under legislative update.

NEW BUSINESS

Michigan ASD State Plan Update Report – Colleen Allen

Colleen Allen led a discussion on the proposed ASD State Plan Report Updated prepared by the MDCH. There was not a vote on approval of the Report. Discussion included having the narrative emphasis more on statewide and Autism Council progress, including the 11 Recommendations for Immediate Action. Specific recommendations for the narrative, as well as, any additions for the matrix should be sent to Min Lee and Lisa Grost this afternoon if possible. There was consensus of the Council members the ASD State Plan Update Report's Scorecard was accurate. A few edits of the scorecard were noted. Additional feedback for the narrative and scorecard can be sent to Lisa Grost in the next few days.

Autism Alliance of Michigan Navigation Center Proposal – Colleen Allen

Not discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Rans spoke regarding issues faced by the Autism Spectrum Disorder community. Christine emphasized the importance of proactive planning in the academic environment.

Colleen suggested "Public Comment" be placed earlier on the agenda in future meetings. Members agreed to this change in the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m. The next meeting will be February 28, 2014 at the Lewis Cass Building.